




ELLESMERE PORT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1941.

BY
W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B. (Hons.),
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29191105>

INTRODUCTION

To the Chairman and Members of the Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1941.

The report continues in its abridged form, and this year the figures for population are omitted on instructions from the Ministry of Health.

The general state of the Public Health remained on the whole favourable for the second full year of war.

The total number of Infectious Diseases is greater than in 1940 due to a sharp epidemic of Measles in the early part of the year.

Apart from Measles, other Infectious Diseases notified are less than the previous year, notably Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

It is interesting to state here that since Immunisation against Diphtheria was commenced in the Urban District in 1936, 2,750 children under 15 years of age have been immunised, and general and local reactions to Immunisation have been negligible. This gives approximately 50 per cent. of the child population protected against Diphtheria. For adequate protection of the child population at least 75 per cent. should be immunised.

The Vital Statistics are as follows.

The Death Rate is 10.5 per 1,000 estimated population as against 10.3, the figure for 1940. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 12.9.

A corrected death rate is not given as it is not representative owing to movements of the population during war time.

The Birth Rate is 19.8 per 1,000 population compared with 20.0 for 1940. The figure for England and Wales is 14.2.

The Infant Mortality Rate shows an increase on last year's figure, namely 72.9, per 1,000 live births, compared with 63.3 for 1940. The Rate for England and Wales is 59. The Rate generally throughout the country shows an increase, which must be considered an unfavourable repercussion of war-time conditions.

It is difficult to define the causes of the increase in the Infant Mortality Rate.

It may be that young children are not having that personal care and control during war time as in peace time.

Unsatisfactory housing conditions may have some bearing on the cause.

Housing conditions continue to cause the Health Department some concern in this district. Many instances are brought to our notice of overcrowding, where more than one family occupy rooms in a small house.

It seems impossible to rectify these conditions as the accommodation is not available.

It is apparent that conditions of overcrowding are bound to have an unfavourable effect not only on young children, but also on adults, many of whom are engaged for long hours at their work.

It would appear that there is no noticeable deficiency in food values; faulty nutrition must be ruled out as a general cause of the increase in Infant Mortality.

The problem of Scabies and Verminous conditions generally has engaged our active attention during the year. The district has shared with other districts the general increase in the incidence of Scabies and other verminous conditions. These conditions are not on a scale to cause alarm at present, but active preventive measures have been undertaken in time, it is hoped, to prevent any large scale epidemic.

The Sanitary Department has co-operated with the Child Welfare and School Authorities in combating cases of Scabies which have been brought to their notice during the year.

The Department has taken a keen interest in maintaining food standards especially with regard to cleanliness in the production and handling of foodstuffs, notably milk.

High grade food, including milk, produced under conditions of absolute cleanliness is considered to be an important part of the national effort. Any deterioration in quality or cleanliness robs the food of much of its value and invites epidemic diseases.

The Casualty Services continue to operate as an effective organisation ready to be called upon at any time, and capable, I feel sure, of acquitting themselves with honour and credit.

I have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the co-operation which my department has received from the Members of the Council and the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees during the past year, and I thank the members of my staff for their conscientious and loyal assistance.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. BIRCHALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton and Ince, and the greater parts of the parishes of Childer Thornton and Little Sutton; also parts of Hooton, Eastham, Thornton-le-Moors and Willaston.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon: T. HARTLEY MARTIN, M.B., B.Ch.

Aural Surgeon: R. MARTIN, M.B., B.Ch.

Gynae-cologist: MORRIS DATNOW, M.D., F.R.C.S. (EDIN).

Chief Sanitary Inspector: E. TUFT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: J. P. GODDARD, Cert. S.I.B.
(Now serving in H.M. Forces).

Additional Sanitary Inspector: S. JACKSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk in the Department: R. K. FRANCIS.

Senior Health Visitor: MISS M. B. REDFERN.

Assistant Health Visitors: MISS K. MCKEE,
MISS E. E. PRESCOTT.

All the officers employed are fully qualified for the duties they perform and are holders of the recognised qualifications.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	9,144
Number of houses in the area (1941)	7,151
Rateable Value	£175,300
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£710

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1941

(Compiled from figures supplied by Registrar General).

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	292	243	535
Illegitimate	16	14	30
	<hr/> 308	<hr/> 257	<hr/> 565

Birth Rate 19.8 per 1,000 population.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1941) in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000-50,000 Census 1931)—16.4

STILL BIRTHS.

							Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	8	...	15
Illegitimate		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
							<hr/> 8		<hr/> 9		<hr/> 17
							<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Still birth rate 29.2 per 1,000 total live and still births or .59 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1926-1940 was 470.

Birth Rate England and Wales 1941	...	...	...	...	...	14.2
Birth Rate England and Wales 1940	...	...	...	...	...	14.6
Birth Rate Administrative County of Cheshire 1940	...					14.3

DEATHS.

Total 301. Males 162 Females 139.

Death Rate 10.5 per 1,000 population.

The Ratio of local adjusted death rate to the National rate was .97 (1940) England and Wales.

The Ratio of local adjusted death rate to the death rate for the Administrative County of Cheshire (1940) 1.00.

Death Rate—England and Wales 12.9 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate—148 Smaller Towns 13.0 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

							Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1.7	1.7
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1.7	1.7
						<hr/> 2		<hr/> 3.4	<hr/> 3.4
						<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>

The figures for England and Wales were :—

	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0.48
Other puerperal causes	1.75
	<hr/> 2.23 <hr/>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Number	Rate
All infants per 1,000 live births	41	72.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	38	71.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	3	100.0

The figures for England and Wales were :—

All England and Wales	59.0
148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident population 25,000-50,000 Census 1931)	56.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (includ- ing London)	71.0
London (Adm. County)	68.0

Table of Infant Mortality, 1926-1940.

Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Year	Rate per 1,000 Births
1926	83.1	1933	75.0
1927	92.0	1934	48.26
1928	64.0	1935	44.6
1929	66.0	1936	51.7
1930	44.0	1937	66.2
1931	68.0	1938	48.3
1932	68.0	1939	58.93
		1940	63.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	4
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	39

CAUSES OF DEATH

All causes	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	2	3
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	3	4
5. Diphtheria	—	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	13	6	19
7. Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	2	3
8. Syphilis	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	1	1
10. Measles	—	1	1
11. Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	—	1
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	20	19	39
13. Diabetes	—	2	2
14. Cerebral Haemorrhage or Thrombosis	13	12	25
15. Heart Disease	32	30	62
16. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	3	5
17. Bronchitis	14	8	22
18. Pneumonia	14	8	22
19. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3	5
20. Peptic Ulcer	2	—	2
21. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	3	3
22. Appendicitis	—	—	—
23. Other Digestive Diseases	2	6	8
24. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	5	12
25. Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	1
26. Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
27. Premature Birth	1	5	6
28. Congenital Debility, Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	4	3	7
29. Suicide	1	1	2
30. Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
31. Other violent causes	14	4	18
32. Other ill defined diseases	16	8	24
	162	139	301

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.

The following services are available:—

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Chemical analysis and Bacteriological examinations of water; also the bacteriological examinations of Milk are carried out at the expense of the Urban District.

The Clinical Research Association and the Liverpool and Chester Laboratories are used for the investigation of disease at the public expense.

Food and Drugs administration is carried out by the County Council, and their officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B. Diphtheria was 19.

There were 15 throat swabs of which one was returned positive and 14 negative; also 4 nasal swabs all of which were returned negative.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B. Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was 47. Of these 5 were returned positive and 42 were negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases, the Wirral Joint Hospital Board provides motor Ambulances for the removal of patients, and for the removal of bedding for steam disinfection.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident cases, the Urban District provides a motor Ambulance for use in connection with the District Hospital, Whitby. The Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital has two motor Ambulances.

The Ambulance Services are very satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME

(a) GENERAL. There is a District Nursing Organisation which provides a trained nurse in Ellesmere Port whose services are partially retained by the Council. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered support the organisation.

There is still need for a District Nurse in the Parish of Little Sutton, and it is hoped that one will be provided in the near future.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There are no arrangements made for nursing infectious cases in the home, with the exception of Pneumonia.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port. A second Child Welfare Centre was opened at Little Sutton in 1938 and full advantage has been taken by the residents

in that area. The work of the Centres is purely of an advisory nature and no treatment is undertaken.

Orthopaedic, Aural and Ante-natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic with Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is provided by the County Council and is held at the Welfare Centre.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.
REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.
ANNUAL TABULAR SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Nature of Inspections	Number of Notices served			Result of Service of Notice	
	Number	Informal	Statutory	Complied with	Remaining in Hand
Dwelling Houses (General)	152	151	22	121	31
Dwelling Houses (House to House)...	34	3	—	3	—
Revisits to inspect work in progress	1163	—	—	—	—
Schools	38	7	—	7	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Caravans...	50	1	1	1	—
Backyards	190	177	7	165	12
Drainage Inspections	32	2	—	1	1
Drainage Tests	16	—	—	—	—
Ditches and Watercourses	2	1	—	1	—
Offensive Accumulations	16	2	1	1	1
Keeping of Animals	1	—	—	—	—
Abattoir	284	—	—	—	—
Food Premises	262	28	—	17	11
Factories (Mobile)	80	9	—	7	2
Factories (Non-Mobile)	37	3	—	3	—
Piggeries	1	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds	129	2	—	1	1
Dairies and Purveyors Premises ...	29	1	—	1	—
Canal Boats	69	—	1	—	1
Infectious Disease enquiries	87	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease other visits ...	106	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	135	—	—	—	—
Visits re vermin infestation	138	32	—	32	—
Disinfestations	98	—	—	—	—
Samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination ...	76	—	—	—	—
Samples of water submitted for examination	9	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts Inspections	38	2	—	1	1
Air Raid Shelters	114	—	—	—	—
Mortuary	10	—	—	—	—
Reference to other Departments ...	14	—	—	—	—
Interviews	211	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits	255	4	—	3	1
TOTALS	3876	425	32	365	62

During the year, legal proceedings were instituted in three instances under the Public Health Act, 1936. Two related to non-compliance of Abatement Notices served under Section 93, and one to a contravention of Section 269 (Moveable Dwellings). All three cases were successful.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER

Nine samples of water were obtained during the year, five for bacteriological examination and four for chemical analysis. Samples 3 and 4 shew a degree of contamination which should be removed before the water can be considered fit for human consumption. These samples it will be noted were taken from a private well. The owner concerned was informed and the matter is receiving active attention by the department.

Water supply and date sample taken.	Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates incubated at 20—22 deg. C. for 3 days.	Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates incubated at 37 deg. C. for 2 days.	B. Coli. Communis	Strepto cocci.	B. Enteriditis Sporogenes.
(2) Standpipe No. 6. Monastery Row, Ince. 27th March, 1941. Tap flamed.	20 per c.c.	Nil.	Absent in 100 c.cs.		
Remarks: Highly satisfactory water.					
(4) Shallow well at Fernbank, Ledsham Road, Little Sutton. 3rd May, 1941.	3,200 per c.c.	1,440 per c.c.	Present in 50 c.cs.	Absent in 10 c.cs.	Absent in 50 c.cs.
Remarks: This water shews the presence of a degree of contamination which should be removed before the water can be considered fit for human consumption.					
(6) Sample of water taken after bomb damage, 89, Park Road, Ellesmere Port. 25th June, 1941. Tap flamed.	4 per c.c.	2 per c.c.	Absent in 100 c.cs.		
Remarks: Satisfactory water.					
(7) Scullery water tap, 17, Rossmore Gardens, Little Sutton. 9th July, 1941. Tap flamed.	48 per c.c.	No B. Welchii in 40 c.c. No organisms of the Typhoid group found	Absent in 100 c.cs.		
Remarks: Highly satisfactory water.					
(9) Standpipe, opposite No. 2, Stanney Lane, E. Port. 28th November, 1941. Tap flamed.	Nil.	Nil. No B. Welchii in 40 c.c.	Absent in 100 c.cs.		
Remarks: Highly satisfactory water.					

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Water supply and date when sample was taken.	Colour of water viewed in a 2ft. glass tube.	Combined Chlorine.	Equivalent to NaCl.	Nitric Nitrogen.	Nitrous Nitrogen.	Albumenoid Nitrogen.	Ammoniacal Nitrogen.	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 Deg. C.	Lead, Copper, or Iron.	Temporary Hardness.	Permanent Hardness.	Total Hardness.
(1) Standpipe at Mon- astery Row, Ince. 27th March, 1941.	Clear.	2.70	—	Minute Trace	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil	—	—	25.0
Remarks: The sample was clear, colourless and odourless, and was free from solid matter in suspension. The water organically is very pure and though moderately hard is quite fit for human consumption and domestic purposes, but as the hardness is mainly temporary it will be likely to cause deposits in hot water systems.												
(3) Shallow Well at Fernbank, Ledsham Road, Little Sutton. 27th March, 1941.	Small amount of opalescence. Fair amount of suspended matter.	4.2	6.72	Nil.	Nil.	0.24	1.44	0.976	Trace of Iron	4.0	8.0	12.0
Remarks: This water shews a degree of contamination of organic origin which makes it unsuitable for human consumption in its present state.												
(5) Cold water tap in bathroom, 89, Park Road, E. Port. 25th June, 1941 (After bomb damage).	Turbid, Yellow, Heavy trace of suspended matter.	37.0	—	Traces	Nil.	0.002	0.001	0.015	.2 parts of Iron per 100.000	—	—	30.0
Remarks: The sample was turbid yellow and odourless. It contains a heavy trace of suspended matter which consisted mainly of Hydrated Oxide of Iron with iron organisms, a little vegetable debris and particles of siliceous matter. The water is very hard and contains an undue proportion of salt. The amount of iron in solution renders it unfit for human consumption in its present condition. The water will probably be improved by flushing.												
(8) Standpipe opposite 2. Stanney Lane. 28th Nov. 1941.	Slightly yellow.	32.50	—	Traces	Nil.	0.002	0.001	0.024	0.03 parts of Iron per 100.000	—	—	26.8
Remarks: The water is very hard and contains an undue proportion of salt. The sample was very faintly turbid, slightly yellow and odourless. It contained only a trace of suspended matter which												

AIR RAID SHELTER DISINFECTION.

Two men are employed to carry out the work of shelter disinfection under the supervision of this department. Disinfections during the year under review, have been carried out systematically throughout the district. Public shelters are sprayed by means of a stirrup pump fitted with a special nozzle, whilst communal and school shelters, are sprayed with hand pressure sprayers.

The number of disinfections carried out was 9057.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was:—

(a) Council Houses	6
(b) Other Houses	25
(c) Number Disinfested	31
(d) Total visits	85

The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed-bugs consist of (1) the removal of picture moulding, architraves, and the skirting boards, and whilst these are being removed a blow-lamp is used; (2) the walls, ceilings and floors, &c. are sprayed with a fluid insecticide (Zaldecide) with satisfactory results; (3) any bedding found to be infested is subjected to steam disinfection.

Further visits are paid at varying intervals up to three weeks and the house alternately fumigated and sprayed during this period.

In order to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses, the Housing Manager inspects the premises of all prospective tenants, and on his report that there is an infestation of the bed-bug, the house is sprayed as above, and the furniture fumigated with "Fumoids."

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority through the staff of the Public Health Department.

STEAM DISINFECTION OF BEDDING.

A communication was received during the early part of the year under review, from the Clerk to the Wirral Joint Hospital Board stating, that owing to the continually increasing burden of disinfecting work placed upon the hospital the board decided; only bedding from patients admitted into the hospital could be steam disinfected. Apart from patients admitted into hospital, there remained the problem of steam disinfection of bedding from patients nursed at home, patients recovered from Scabies and bedding infested with bed-bugs. In view of this, it was necessary to make other arrangements, and an excellent arrangement was arrived at with the Sanitary Department of a neighbouring Borough for this work to be carried out during the present war period.

HOUSING

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	186
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	753
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932... ..	34
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	60
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	15
--	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c) Remaining in hand	10

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.—There are 34 registered cowkeepers, 14 dairies and 4 milkshops in the district. In addition 14 milk purveyors bring milk into the district from outside, and there are 3 registered wholesalers resident outside the area.

The Register shows the following entries:

Cowkeepers (wholesale producers)	22
Cowkeepers (retail producers)	12
Dairies and Milkshops	18

Total registered milk dealers in the district	52
--	----

Wholesalers resident outside the district	3
Retailers distributing milk into the district from outside	14

Total number of Milk Dealers on the Registers ...	69
---	----

78 samples of milk were obtained for examination and sent to the bacteriologist for examination. Each sample taken at the farm was done so during early morning milking and examined as follows:—

Accredited Farms: Standard for this designation, plus examination for Tuberculosis.

Commercial Farms: Tuberculosis, Bacillus coli and Colony Count. Of 34 samples examined for Tuberculosis, 5 were returned positive shewing a percentage of 14.7 on the number examined. Two of the positive samples were from accredited farms.

Particular attention has been paid to the sampling of milk, in an endeavour to obtain a high standard of cleanliness both in production and handling.

The closest co-operation is afforded by the County Public Health Department through the Assistant County Sanitary Inspector, in matters relative to accredited farms, and this is greatly appreciated.

One wholesale producer was erased from the accredited roll during the year making a total of 26 cowkeepers producing accredited milk.

One Supplementary licence and two Dealers' licences are issued by the Local Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—284 visits were paid to the Public Abattoir for the purpose of inspection whilst slaughtering was in progress. Although the abattoir is not a modern one a high standard of cleanliness is maintained both as regards the abattoir and during slaughtering.

262 visits were paid to the various food premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.—One application for registration of premises under Section 14 was received and granted, for the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

During the year, a survey was carried out of all food premises in order to secure compliance where necessary, of the requirements of Section 13, such section dealing with precautions against contamination of food. A cyclostyled circular of Section 13 was handed to each occupier or manager and fully explained, also posters were exhibited in the district. A number of premises had not a sufficient supply of hot water and it is pleasing to mention that at the close of the year, this work was being carried out very satisfactorily.

The following table shews the number of carcasses inspected at the Abattoir; also the number of whole carcasses, portions of carcasses and organs rejected on account of their unfitness for human consumption, giving a total weight of 14 tons 10 cwt. 16 lbs.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	519	301	393	5127	273	6613
Number inspected	519	301	393	5127	273	6613
All diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcasses rejected...	3	7	—	5	1	16
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	102	78	1	310	18	509
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	20.2	28.2	0.25	6.1	6.9	7.9
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcasses rejected...	3	17	1	—	1	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	48	110	—	—	34	192
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.8	42.1	0.25	—	12.8	3.2

In addition to the above, the undermentioned were rejected at the Abattoir:—

- 2 Tins Corned Beef.—Blown Tins.
- 1 Hindquarter Frozen Beef.—Decomposition.
- 5 Forequarters Frozen Beef.—Decomposition.
- Total weight.—1847 lbs.

Twelve special visits were paid to shops on the request of the traders, and the following foods were rejected:—

- One shoulder of Bacon.—Decomposition.
- One box of Cod Fish. Decomposition.
- One box Plaice—Decomposition.
- One box Hake—Decomposition.
- One box Sprag.—Decomposition.
- Three pounds Halibut.—Decomposition.
- Tin Tongue.—Blown Tin.
- One Ham.—Decomposition.
- 6lbs. Gammon.—Decomposition.
- Weight—255 lbs.
- 11 Cases of Eggs.—Decomposition.
- 2 Boxes Oranges.—Decomposition.

DECONTAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS.

In accordance with Circulars issued by the Ministry of Food, a scheme has been formulated for the district to carry out the important work of food decontamination in the event of food becoming contaminated by poison gas due to enemy action.

Regular meetings of the volunteers are held in order to stimulate interest, and keep abreast of any difficulties which may arise. They are very keen and will no doubt work efficiently and well if ever called upon.

CANAL BOATS

67 boats were inspected during the year, and these were registered to carry 209 Adults and 80 Children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 121 Adults, 63 Children.

One Statutory Notice was served. This notice was in hand at the end of the year.

No case of Infectious disease occurred on canal boats during the year it was not necessary therefore to detain any boat for cleansing and disinfection.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1941.

LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard.
Aspirins	1	
Bacon	1	
Boracic Ointment	3	
Butter	1	
Coffee	1	1
Castor Oil	3	
Cooking Fat	1	
Chicken and Ham Roll	1	
Coffee and Chicory	1	
Cod Liver Oil	1	
Egg Substitute	1	
Epsom Salts	2	
Glycerine	1	
Ginger Ground	2	
Lemon Cordial	1	
Lemon Juice Substitute	1	
Lemonade	1	
Liquorice Powder	3	
Milk	30	2
Meat Paste... ..	1	
Margarine	1	
Mercurial Ointment... ..	1	
Malt Vinegar	3	
Milk Powder	1	1
Pepper	1	
Rice, ground	1	
Senna Pods... ..	1	
Sugar	1	
Semolina	1	
Tea	1	
Zinc Ointment	1	
	70	4

In only four cases out of a total of 70 samples obtained did the Public Analyst find it necessary to make an adverse report, which is highly satisfactory.

With regard to the samples which are adulterated or not up to Standard—one milk was reported as being deficient in fat to the extent of 8.3 per cent., but as this was not a very serious matter the seller was cautioned. A sample of sterilised milk was reported as containing 3.5 per cent. of extraneous water. Enquiries at the dairy as to the method of manufacture showed that bottles of hot milk after being corked were immersed in vats of cold water. In one or two cases defective stoppers caused water to enter the bottles and the sample purchased in your area was no doubt one of these. Alterations were made to the vats so that it is now impossible for the bottles to be completely immersed in the water. In view of the small percentage of water present it was decided to caution the Dairy Company concerned.

A sample of a well-known brand of coffee was reported as containing 50 per cent. chicory. The manufacturers were approached for an explanation and they stated that their premises had been bombed and in the ensuing disorganisation tins and labels were mixed up. This was considered a reasonable excuse and the firm was cautioned.

A 'test' sample of milk powder was found to consist mainly of flour and salt, and although the matter was followed up immediately the shopkeeper concerned had sold out and did not contemplate getting any further supplies. This was unfortunate as an 'official' sample could not be obtained. No action could of course be taken on the test sample.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever... ..	32	27	—
Diphtheria	28	27 (8 neg.)	1
Typhoid	1	1 (1 neg.)	—
Paratyphoid	3	3 (1 neg.)	—
Erysipelas	4	1	—
Pneumonia	8	7	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—
Measles	259	9	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	12	11 (3 neg.)	3
	351	7 86	6

Of the cases of Diphtheria notified, 5 were stated to have been inoculated against this disease. Four of these 5 were reported by the hospital authorities to be positive cases. Of these four cases one had received only one injection 18 months previously, another case 6 months previously, the other two had been inoculated in 1940.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES.

Disease	North East	North West	South	Whitby	Stanney	Victoria	Pool and Hooton	Childer Thornton	Little Sutton	Great Sutton	Grange	Ince	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	0	10	3	3	3	6	0	0	3	3	0	1	32
Diphtheria	1	1	1	3	3	10	2	1	2	1	3	0	28
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Pneumonia	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
Erysipelas	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	2	0	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	4	8	0	0	4	1	0	2	3	1	0	24
Non-pulmon. do.	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Measles	6	15	38	43	2	20	17	9	41	26	38	4	259
	12	34	56	54	8	44	23	11	55	35	46	5	383

Deduct cases on which investigation proved negative:	Diphtheria	8
	Cerebro-spinal Fever	3
	Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	2
		370

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 „	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—
5—15 „	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
15—25 „	1	3	1	—	1	2	—	—
25—35 „	2	7	—	—	2	1	—	—
35—45 „	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 „	2	1	1	—	3	—	—	—
55—65 „	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	11	13	7	1	11	4	—	—

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS, SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS. 1941

Disease	TOTAL Cases	TOTAL Deaths	Total		0-1		1-2		2-3		3-4		4-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-35		35-45		45-65		Over	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	Cases	32	18	14	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	5	2	5	8	2	2	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	Cases	12	5	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid	Cases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever	Cases	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	Cases	28	16	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	9	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	Cases	259	140	119	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	15	20	65	55	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	Cases	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	Cases	8	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	Cases	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Dr. Hartley Martin reports as follows:—

I have the honour to report on the work done at the Ellesmere Port Orthopaedic Clinic during the 12 months ended December, 1941.

15 sessions have been held at which 51 new cases have been seen and 300 re-examinations made—an average of 23 cases per session.

These figures are given below in greater detail:—

				In relation to school age.			
NEW CASES.				Under	of	Over	
Non-Tuberculous	...	...	...	47	...	23	---
Tuberculous	...	...	...	1	...	2	1
RE-EXAMINATIONS.							
Non-Tuberculous	...	...	...	116	...	172	2
Tuberculous	...	...	...	—	...	7	3

Table 1 shows all cases on the clinic register arranged into disease categories and age groups. The numbers of cases discharged are also shown, the reason for discharge being given.

Of the 197 cases on the register during the year, 2 or 1 per cent. have been admitted to hospital for treatment. These cases comprise:—

Congenital Deformities...1 case...Stay in hospital 107 days.

Acquired Deformities...1 case...Stay in hospital 87 days.

The total number of hospital days was 196 (100 per cent. being devoted to children of school age).

The work done by the Massage and Remedial Exercises Department (twice weekly sessions) continued to give great help in preventive and curative treatment.

913 treatments have been given to the 44 cases on the Massage register; 15 new cases have been referred for treatment and 5 discharged.

Table 11 shows these cases analysed into disease groups and age categories. By means of the attendance, the proportion of the Masseuse's time devoted to each age group can be reduced.

It will be seen that of the new cases 65 per cent. were referred by the Child Welfare Service, whose co-operation in the ascertainment of cases is of much valued assistance.

ELLESMERE PORT ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1941

Visits by Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	15
Attendances by Orthopaedic Sister	...	...	...	...	...	51
New Cases examined	...	...	...	...	...	74
Re-Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	300

ANALYSIS OF CASES

	Under School Age.		Of School Age.		Over School Age	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
New Cases :—						
Non-Tuberculous	...23	... 24	... 10	... 13	... —	... —
Tuberculous	... —	... 1	... 2	... —	... 1	... —
Re-Examinations :—						
Non-Tuberculous	...51	... 65	... 77	... 95	... 1	... 1
Tuberculous	...—	... —	... 5	... 2	... 2	... 1

MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISES DEPARTMENT

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of Patients Treated	... 25	... 19	... 44
Number of Attendances of Cases	... 423	... 490	... 913
Number of New Cases Referred for Treatment	... 10	... 5	... 15
Number of Cases in which the Treatment has been terminated	... 3	... 2	... 5

ANALYSIS OF NON-TUBERCULOUS CASES INCLUDED IN ABOVE RETURN

	Under School Age.		Of School Age.		Over School Age	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Attending School	... —	... —	... —	... —	... —	... —
Not Attending School	... —	... —	... —	... —	... —	... —
Attending Special School	... —	... —	... —	... —	... —	... —

TABLE 1.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	Remaining 1940 in relation to School age			New Cases 1941 in relation to School age			Remaining 1941 in relation to School age			Discharged 1941						
	Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over	Cured	Relieved	Over age—relieved	Left District	Refused Treatment	Unsuitable	Died
Infantile Paralysis	...	5	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spastic Paralysis...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Rickets	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
T.B. (Osteitis and Arthritis)	1	5	...	1	2	1	...	5	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Non-T.B. do.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
Deformities—Congenital	...	18	...	9	2	...	11	20	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deformities—Acquired	41	23	...	23	13	...	43	31	...	24	...	...	1	1	...	...
Diagnosis	13	...	...	13	6	...	11	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...
TOTALS	64	59	...	48	25	1	69	74	2	30	3	...	1	1	16	...

MESSAGE RETURN

TABLE 2.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	ATTENDANCES								CASES			
	OF SCHOOL AGE								Number of Cases			
	Boys				Girls							
	Attending School	Not Attending School	Attending Special School	Attending School	Not Attending School	Attending Special School	UNDER SCHOOL AGE					OVER SCHOOL AGE
							Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
Infantile Paralysis	54	...	...	19	...	...	21	...	...	4	9.08
Spastic Paralysis...	79	...	...	94	...	...	...	...	...	6	13.62
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
T.B. (Osteitis and Arthritis)	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2.27
Non-T.B. do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	14	31.78
Congenital Deformities	118	...	...	98	...	...	8	...	...	19	43.13
Acquired Deformities...	104	...	...	211	...	...	65	68	...	...	...
TOTALS	358	...	...	422	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	780								1383			...
PERCENTAGES	85.4 per cent.								14.6 per cent.			...

ORTHOPAEDIC AFTER-CARE CLINIC.

Return for the Year 1941.

Visits by Surgeon 15
 Attendances by Orthopaedic Sister 51
 Attendances by Masseuse 91

		NON-TUBERCULOUS						TUBERCULOUS					
		Under School Age		Of School Age		Over School Age		Under School Age		Of School Age		Over School Age	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
NEW CASES:—	Surgeon ...	23	24	10	13	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...
	Masseuse ...	3	...	7	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ATTENDANCES:—	Surgeon ...	57	65	77	95	1	1	...	...	5	2	2	1
	Masseuse ...	65	68	355	422	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
DISCHARGES:—	Surgeon ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Masseuse ...	8	13	4	13	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The following report is supplied by the Senior Health Visitor.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS AND HEALTH VISITING.

During the year 565 live births were notified and 17 stillbirths.

123 of these occurred in Spital Maternity Hospital.

5 in Bromborough Maternity Home.

8 in Chester Maternity Hospital.

2 in Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

1 in Ellesmere Port and District Hospital.

9886 visits were paid by the Health Visitors in the homes during the year as follows:—

1st visits to infants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	586
Revisits to infants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3169
Revisits to children 1—5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4610
Pre-Natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Visits to schoolchildren	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Incidental calls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1161
									9886

Routine visits are paid at regular intervals to babies from the time the midwife finishes her attendance till the child enters school at 5 years of age.

Instruction and advice are given on the care and management of young children, diet, general rules of health and hygiene, the primary object being the prevention of ill-health and disease. For this purpose information is given systematically on vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria. Minor ailments are dealt with but in more serious conditions the mother is always advised to see her own doctor. Any sanitary defects found in the house are referred to the Sanitary Inspector. The advice of the nurse is often sought on matters relating to the family budget and economic difficulties.

All mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinic are visited in their homes if they do not appear at the Clinic at regular intervals.

Visits to School children include visits of foster children, visits to cases of infectious diseases; Diphtheria contacts have swabs taken when necessary and children discharged from hospital after diphtheria and scarlet fever are visited also.

Incidental calls include visits to Works, Schools, Midwives, Attendance Officer, Public Assistance Official and those of the Unemployment exchange—with all of whom there is the closest co-operation. The number have increased this year due to house to house visitation in connection with the Day Nursery Scheme.

Since the beginning of December, the staffs have co-operated with the Milk Officer in the distribution of Vitamins.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

This Clinic is held weekly—on Wednesday afternoons.

340 mothers attended for the first time.

965 further attendances were made.

18 mothers attended for a Post-Natal examination.

1323 attendances in all.

Percentage of attendance in relation to births: 61 per cent. This is an increase of 15 per cent. on previous years.

HOME HELPS

4 mothers applied for the service of a Home Help.

1 paid the full fees.

3 paid the amount charged by the Council according to their income.

STILL-BIRTHS

47 still-births were registered, these were due to the following causes:—

Malformation of Foetus	4
Ante-partum Haemorrhage	3
Albuminuria	2
Enemy Action	2
Intra-Uterine Asphyxia	1
No apparent cause	5

4 of these attended the Ante-Natal Clinic, 10 were under their own Doctor during pregnancy. In 6 cases their confinement took place in hospital.

INFANT MORTALITY

41 infants died under the age of one year.

15 children died between the age of one and five years.

The following table shows the causes of death:—

Under one year:—		Over one year:—	
Broncho-pneumonia	12	Whooping cough	3
Prematurity	6	Lobar Pneumonia	2
Bronchitis	3	Broncho-pneumonia	1
Gastro-enteritis	3	Pneumonia	1
Marasmus	3	Bronchitis	1
Asphyxia	2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	1
Convulsions	2	Diphtheria	1
Toxaemia	2	Measles	1
Feebleness at Birth	1	Tuberculous Meningitis	1
Hydrocephalus	1	Tuberculosis of the spine	1
Congenital Heart	1	Asthma	1
Lack of attention at birth... ..	1	Shock due to burns	1
Birth Trauma... ..	1		
Myocardial failure	1		
Causes unknown	2		

19 of these died in the first 3 months, of these 16 died in the first month, and of these 5 died in the first few hours of life.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

4 children were visited.

128 children under 5 years were inoculated against diphtheria.

255 school children were also done.

An arrangement is made with the Head Teacher to give the mother a consent form when the child is admitted to school. If this is signed, the teacher brings down her new children at the beginning of each term.

SCARLET FEVER.

3 children discharged from hospital were seen.

MEASLES.

294 children were visited.

WHOOPING COUGH.

A number of cases were visited on receipt of information from the school authorities. In many instances no doctor was in attendance.

MUMPS.

8 cases were visited.

CHICKEN POX.

23 cases were visited.

SCABIES.

14 cases were visited and treatment given.

DENTAL CLINIC.

20 children were treated by the school dentist by arrangement with the Cheshire County Council.

AURAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held monthly.

56 children attended for the first time.

39 revisits were paid making a total attendance of 95. Many of these children have to attend daily for treatment and much time is spent each morning, on this work.

310 of these treatments were given.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

3 sessions are held in two months on Monday afternoons.

2 sessions weekly are held for massage and remedial exercises—Monday and Thursday afternoons.

A separate report is given by Dr. Hartley Martin.

MOTHERCRAFT TO SCHOOLGIRLS.

Having been invited by the Housewifery Mistress to give lectures and demonstrations to the schoolgirls attending the centre, this has been done at the beginning of every term by one of the Health Visitors.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

4 Foster mothers were entered on the register.
2 from the previous year, and two new ones. Of these
1 child has been returned to its mother leaving
3 remaining under supervision. All the children are well and happy,
and those under school age are attending the Welfare Centre.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

All the Health Visitors are on call for voluntary service at the Hospital in case of an air raid at night. During the day the Health Visitors remain at the service of their mothers and children. A shelter has been provided by the Council, and equipment is ready if any emergency should arise.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Two sessions are held weekly at Ellesmere Port on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, and once a week at Little Sutton on Monday afternoons.

				LITTLE SUTTON.	
First visits of mothers	...	...	404		114
First visits of infants	...	...	367		101
First visits of children 1-5 years			52		16
			823		231
Revisits of mothers	...	...	4272		1409
Revisits of infants	...	...	3463		1048
Revisits of children 1-5 years	...		1049		413
			8784		2870

Percentage of attendance in relation to live births 86 per cent.
972 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health.

2 children were found to be suffering from carious teeth.

4 children were referred to the Aural Clinic.

6 children were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic.

2 children were referred for the treatment of eye defects.

216 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health in Little Sutton.

1 child was referred for the treatment of eye defects.

Neither of the Centres could be efficiently administered without the valuable aid of the Voluntary Committees who give unstinted service to the mothers. Their unfailing enthusiasm helps in a large measure to create an atmosphere that makes the centres attractive to the mothers.

The centre at Little Sutton is growing considerably and there, the duty of distributing vitamins has been undertaken exclusively by Councillor Mrs. Collins, and Mrs. Deakins, who give an extra afternoon in the week for this purpose.

THE MILK SCHEME.

Close co-operation exists between the Milk Officer and the Health Visiting staff.

The Milk Officer attends at each session of the Welfare Centre to answer enquiries and overcome difficulties that may arise.

2,000 odd application forms for milk, are overlooked and verified each quarter, by the Health Visitors.

DISTRIBUTION OF VITAMINS.

In Ellesmere Port vitamins are distributed at the Welfare Centre during each morning in the week, and at each session of the Welfare Centre.

At Little Sutton they are distributed during two afternoons a week.

1046 mothers are entitled to this benefit for their children, only 581 have applied for it. This is disappointing in view of the fact that for many years we have stressed the importance of vitamins in growth and development of children, and their value in providing the power to prevent infection.

We understand that this is a better response than some towns show, but it is by no means a good one.

CLOTHING COUPONS.

Extra duties have been added to the already busy Ante-Natal Clinic. In addition to the individual advice given on general care, diet, clothing, and preparation for natural feeding of the baby when born, forms for the application for the supply of eggs are provided, and sanctioned by the staff.

Clothing coupons for expectant mothers, can only be obtained at the Welfare Centre on production of the National Registration Card. Mothers not attending the Ante-Natal Clinic also must produce a note from their own Doctor or Nurse. Details of these facts have to be carefully kept in a register, together with the signature of the recipient.

DAY NURSERIES.

It is gratifying to feel that at last definite action is being taken with regard to the provision of Day Nurseries. Discussions with regard to this matter have been taking place since the need was first brought to the notice of the Council, a year ago. During the early part of the year it was felt that most mothers who were at work had given their children into the care of relatives. At the latter part of the year a survey was made of the district. More than 3,000 houses were visited by the Health Visitors, and members of their voluntary Committees. It was found that 208 mothers, not already working, would take advantage of the scheme, if it is instituted.

